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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Agriculture (AC-Ag)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Brown County
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Agriculture and Extension Service Center

1150 Bellevue Street

Green Bay, WI 54302

Phone: (920) 391-4620 Fax: (920) 391-4617

BILL HAFS

COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST

Multi-Dates

July 7, 2006

Dear Representative Ott, Senator Kapanke, Senator Hansen,

I am writing to urge you to support strong Manure Management Discharge Rules (NR 243) for the State of Wisconsin.

I work with farmers on a daily basis, and I know many farmers are concerned about water quality and strive to be good stewards of the land.

Manure runoff is a serious problem. The proposed revisions to NR 243 are necessary and provide common sense solutions needed for Wisconsin that many farmers have already put into place.

The Town of Morrison in Brown County had over 100 wells contaminated in 2006 with Bacteria. 34% of the wells in Morrison tested from UW Stevens Point in May 2006 are higher than the drinking water standard for Nitrates (10ppm). According to UWSP, Nitrates in wells is caused from agriculture. 34% of the wells over 10ppm for N is over 3 times the state average (10%) of private wells over 10 ppm.

NR243 rules are needed to create a standard for the entire State of Wisconsin. Rules for Brown County and other counties with Karst features (groundwater concerns) will need to be more specific:

- Winter spreading plans need to be required from December 1 to April 1 not just February and March. Animal waste applied in December and January will lie until spring thaw and contaminate well water and surface water. Animal waste applied in November and earlier could and should be incorporated.
- 6 months of animal waste storage is a minimum requirement, 8 would be better. There are too many variable weather conditions not to have 6 months of animal waste storage.
- There are areas of karst features where incorporation of animal waste needs to be required within 24 hours (not 72 hours). Immediate incorporation (knifing in animal waste immediately would be the best).
- We have some karst feature agriculture fields which may not allow any animal waste land application.
- Land application of animal waste requirements need to take into account the other municipal, industrial, septic wastes that the landowner may be paid to land apply on the same fields where animal waste is being land applied.
- We need sustainability requirements for expansions (and all livestock operations). 3 acres per animal unit is needed for land application of animal waste for phosphorus (see attached study).

I have a number of questions and concerns about cost – share that have been relayed to me from agriculture producers that I would like to share with you:

1. Why do tax payers pay for these environmental/ water quality protection (cost share) requirements?
2. Are other businesses or industries paid to do environmental / water quality protection from government?
3. Why is environmental / water quality protection not the responsibility of the landowner?
4. Why does the government pay for correction (BMP's) of bad environmental stewardship while other farmers who have done a good job get no cost share?
5. Cost – share is an unfair economic advantage to those who are causing pollution problems. There is no cost share for the farmer who has been a good steward – only payments to those who need BMP's.
6. Can government afford cost share programs for bad actors? USDA and/or Wisconsin have had cost share for farmers for over 50 years. When will cost share end and the expectation/requirement of stewardship begin?

30 years ago land application of animal waste was easier. We had larger numbers of smaller dairy herds which led to easier distribution of land applied animal waste. Today we have fewer and larger herds that cause challenges in animal waste management. Land use planning failed to protect large blocks of agriculture land needed for land spreading of large volumes of animal waste.

Please support NR 243 to protect our waters from manure spills by limiting poor manure handling practices, fully counting all animals, and continuing to allow DNR to bring enforcement action against large farms that have large manure spills.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues, please call me or e-mail me.

Respectfully,

Bill Hafs

Bill Hafs

Brown County Land Conservation Department
1150 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54302
Phone 920-391-4633
hafs_bc@co.brown.wi.us
www.co.brown.wi.us/Land_Conservation/index.html

Testimony in Regard to NR 243 (Manure Management Rules)

Tom Hermann

6278 County T

Egg Harbor, WI. 54209

(920) 743-6034

To:

Todd Ambs

Natural Resources Board

Sir(s),

NR 243 should be adopted as a *minimum* standard for the handling of manure.

As a landowner who lives in an agricultural area and gets his water from a well I have serious concerns in regard to several instances of polluted wells in the area(s) of the Niagara Escarpment. These rules, for this area, offer a bare minimum of protection.

Just this last week my neighbor was spreading manure. The next day we began a spell of rainy weather that lasted for at least three days and amounted to approximately 6 inches of rain, three of which fell in one 24 hr. period. While I am sure that he was operating within the requirements that this rule would impose I still have concerns given the nature of our soils and the fractured nature of the bedrock found in our karst topography.

I also have concerns about run-off. We have precious little surface water in this area, the streams that exist are small, and in general they are degraded. While my neighbor does have some land that he has taken out of cultivation along the stream that runs through his property he has also turned former pastures into cropland due to the changed nature of his operations.

I am sure that others will testify in regard to what they think should be required. Let me state that *I support the position(s) of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters in regard to NR 243.*

I would also like to state that this is a problem that the State of Wisconsin has brought upon itself. The increase in MVP (Milk Volume Production) Loans has totally changed the nature of dairy farming in our area.

I mentioned the land belonging to my neighbor that used to be pasture and is now cropland. When we moved to this area that farmer had far fewer cows and on many occasions I had to wait to proceed down the road while he herded them back to the barn for milking. We no longer see cows in pastures. The concentration of manure in barns and feedlots, as well the large amounts of water used for cleaning those operations, plus the dramatic increase in herd sizes is a problem that could have easily been foreseen.

Indeed, many in both the environmental and farm community warned us of what could and would happen when CAFO's and just plain larger operations came into being.

Again, I think the suggestions of NR 243 should be adopted as a bare *minimum* of protection. I would also urge the board to vigorously investigate the matter of penalties for violations, liability, etc.

I would also urge them to consider the various geographical and geological realities of certain areas and adopt or adapt rules to fit the certain unique constraints that present themselves in those areas.

The waters of the state belong to the citizens of the state. I wish my farm neighbors no ill will but I do expect that they will respect my right to clean water from my own well. I expect some due respect from them and some clear and sensible legislation/rules from my government in this regard. Anything less than that shows a profound lack of understanding and respect for the greater community and the rights of citizens.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tom Hermann

5.5.06

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of
the Natural Resources Board,

Recently, we have seen far too many fish kills, beach closings and well contaminations as a result of manure spills, fractured bedrock, and winter spreading.

A close family friend of mine was hit directly with this. She had two young toddlers and a newborn baby; and she woke up one morning to get a glass of water and it was discolored. Not just a little bit but brown and disgusting. She had a well in her backyard and could only think a manure spill from her neighbors.

As I mentioned before she had a newborn baby who drank baby formula and two toddlers. Her newborn baby got violently sick and she realized it was from the water. ☹

Everything in her house had to be replaced that came in contact with this water; dishwasher, dishes, clothes, washer, dryer and even more than that she couldn't financially afford at the time.

On top of all that her baby was sick which was even more expensive.

Her husband, a police officer, was the only one who was bringing in an income.

This situation which they couldn't have prevented left them in big trouble.

Now, besides a friend that went through it, I myself may eventually be affected by this. I hope that I never do and you take care of your citizens.

I support the mandatory discharge permit application for CAFOs, and the requirement that CAFOs apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Erica Hartjes

Dear Administrative Aides & members of the NRB,

Over the last few years I have read and heard about so many fish kills, beach closings and water contamination going on in the state. I do not hear about what is going on to reduce this pollution and contamination. I fear we are headed in the wrong direction. With the constant loss of our small farms and the ~~increase~~ increase in large farms I fear these problems could be worse.

I have enjoyed the waters of Wisconsin all my life. I boat, fish, and swim with my family throughout the year in our great state.

NR243 is a chance to guarantee premium water quality, however current standards need to be maintained and improved.

We must have ~~mandatory~~ mandatory discharge permits for all CAFOs.

This last summer we had too many beach closings. As a father with 2 small children - I worry about the effects our water and air will have on them. Please make NR243 as strong as possible to

Protect the health of our families - especially
our children. We at least owe them that.

Sincerely

David Newman

3525 Glen Abbey Dr
Green Bay WI 54311

5-5-6

Dear Administrator Amb and Members of the
Natural Resources Board,

I have been very concerned about recent manure spills and contaminations of groundwater here in Wisconsin.

Our ground water supply and cleanliness of that supply is vitally important for the safety and health of all Wisconsin residents. The hydrologic cycle connects ground water to all the water we drink, wash and swim in.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water across Wisconsin, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

Please require 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008, ban Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered, Include Additional Groundwater Protections for landspreading manure, as well as Year-Round Spreading Restrictions Near Surface Waters.

I urge you to make NR 243 as
STRONG as possible to protect the
health of our families and the
recreational opportunities for sportsman
and women.

Sincerely,

Stephanie H

Stephanie Hyer

1533 Leo St. Apt. 5

Green Bay, WI 54303

May 15, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

Recently, we have seen far too many fish kills, beach closings, and well contaminations as a result of manure spills, fractured bedrock, and winter spreading.

As a proud citizen of Wisconsin which boasts of its natural beauty, especially its abundant and beautiful lakes and rivers, I am directly affected by poor water quality. My husband and I and our four children not only enjoy our families' cottages on lakes in the state, but we enjoy the use of many lakes in the state and live near Lake Winnebago. We feel it is our obligation as citizens of Wisconsin to take an active part in protecting these and all lakes in Wisconsin for future generations.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

NR 243 must include:

- 0. Requiring 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008
- 0. Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008
- 0. Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Flaherty
909 Davis Point Ct.
Neenah, WI 54956

May 15, 2006

The water quality problem is solvable by composting vs. land spreading or by methane gas production. The phosphorous (and I can't ever remember for sure if it is P or K that is the problem) build up is not solveable until we get cattle numbers down, way down, and figure out ways to work the elements back into balance with the rest of creation's chemistry.

It is, low-first-cost, transfer-the-costs idiocy to land spread manures on thin soils underlaid by fractured rock and expect water--the prime resource--and those upon whom the costs are dumped to not react to the insults.

There is more to farming than making money. If the mega-dairy farm style can't treat resources right. We're all out of business. The amounts of manure they generate have to be thought of as undeveloped resources instead of wastes to be disposed of as cheaply as possible. Apply capital and technology to create other profit centers out of it.

Regards,

Wm Hurrle

1820 N. Ronsman Rd.
New Franken 54229

5/17/06

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

I don't think I need to tell you that spreading liquid manure on frozen ground is toxic to our environment and to people. With all the news about fish kills, beach closings, and well contaminations caused by manure spills, fractured bedrock, and winter spreading I'm sure you are well aware of the problem. In light of this I urge you, as aware and educated citizens, to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect us from further damage and loss.

I've lived in Wisconsin all my life. My sister used to live in Door County and my parents have lived just outside Sturgeon Bay for 10 plus years now. We are not strangers to the devastation of wells and lives, ruined by manure run off from winter spreading. As homeowners, land owners, and lovers of the environment we want to see quality of life continue for current and future Wisconsin residents. To ensure that quality of life the current standards contained in NR 243 need to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

But to be truly effective in protecting our wells, waters, and natural environment, NR 243 must also include mandates for:

- Full implementation of a 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity requirement for Liquid Manure by 2008
- Full implementation of a permanent ban on the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008
- Full implementation of a ban on the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered

I know the people of Wisconsin take pride in and want to protect our natural environment, water sources, and homes. I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and Wisconsin's wonderful recreational opportunities now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Pam Fischer
1344 Russell St.
Green Bay, WI 54304
920-497-1330

RE: NR 243

May 16, 2006

It is not necessary to have personal experience with contaminated wells or rivers in order to have strong opinions about the problem. Obviously, the DNR needs to have the authority to act preemptively. If a community of several thousand people tried to spread their "manure", there would be a huge outcry. Yet, a herd of one thousand animals creates a manure problem that is equivalent to a small city. The fact that sanitary treatment of it is not required is a huge advantage for a large-scale farm. At the very least, the DNR should have authority to require adequate storage and ban application to fields when environmental conditions are inappropriate.

Thank you,

Lynn Abbott
3143 Tobermory Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54311

Curt Andersen
2942 Jack Pine Lane
Green Bay, WI 54313

May 22, 2006

DNR Water Quality Administrator Todd Ambs,
DNR Board

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

RE: NR 243

I am puzzled by the contrary positions taken by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Tourism. DNR seems to be in the middle, making a mess of things by not properly regulating either department. Each of the departments is spending money to protect their industry but their goals are not compatible.

Dept. of Tourism spends millions of dollars per year to bring in tourists who spend billions of dollars per year. I see this as money very well spent.

Dept. of Agriculture is spending millions each year to insure Wisconsin farm products are competitive in a global market. I see this as an acceptable public expenditure, but for the glitches those expenditures are creating.

Alas, we are now competing with countries with no environmental laws, or a shameful lack of enforcement of any laws, and instead of insuring those countries abide by the same laws that we have, instead we are in a race to the bottom, insuring that the clear water and air we prize in Wisconsin will change to "stinkingly polluted," which will negate all of the money spent by Department of Tourism, not to mention shoreland owners like me. I also have a well that is not yet contaminated.

The expenditures and actions by Department of Agriculture do not take into account EPA and DNR clean water rules that forbid horrific runoff, which creates hideous odors and ruins fishing in streams and small lakes, further compromising the greater waters of Lake Michigan.

Like with the pollution of the Fox River, the cost of pollution cleanup is borne by commercial and sport fishermen, property owners, and those with contaminated wells. I do not see this as a viable system, no matter how you cut it.

New rules are vital to the tourism economy of Wisconsin, one of few industries left in the state.

Sincerely,

Curt Andersen

920-434-1288
cdandersen@netnet.net

May 18, 2006.

Dear Ambassador Ambs and Members of the Natural resource Board:

My name is Stephen Abitz and I reside at 2467 Hwy 22 in DePere, Wisconsin. I live about three miles from Wrightstown, Wisconsin which, I believe, has become the manure capital of Wisconsin. I have lived at this local for 25 years. During this time I have seen nearly all of the small family farms around us disappear and be replaced with agri-corporations. It's a disturbing trend and the environmental effects on my neighborhood and on NE Wisconsin are very negative.

I know you are aware of the 70 wells in southern Brown County recently contaminated by manure spreading. It seems NE Wisconsin has become a magnet for so called CAFO's. I can tell you that living around Wrightstown, especially in the summer, has become less than pleasant. The smell of manure and methane is often overwhelming making sitting out in your back yard undesirable. Trucks regularly haul over the local roads, spilling and leaving a coating of manure sometimes a half mile or more long. Runoff, in my neighborhood, is evident year round. It's my understanding once applied manure should be plowed under but I don't see that happening. I've observed downpours right after spreading. I live near the East river and manure is spread on fields close enough to the river that some is running in.

Manure is loaded with bacteria unhealthy for fish and animals not to mention humans. Some of these bacteria can cause serious illness. There is a recent case of an infant in Kewaunee County rushed to a hospital after drinking water from a contaminated well.

There's too much manure spread on too few acres in NE Wisconsin but spreading in the winter when runoff is much more likely has terrible environmental consequences. I urge you to support NR 243 and stop the practice.

Sacrificing our health and our environment for the profits of a few agri-businesses is not good policy. DNR needs to begin to reverse the trend of the past 20 years. The agency must renew their mandate to the people of Wisconsin and once again become good stewards of the land.

Best regards,

Stephen Abitz
2467 Hwy 22
DePere, WI 54115

May 22, 2006

RE: NR 243

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

I hope the DNR can employ the strength of their convictions to remedy the terrible injustice that has been perpetrated on the common man. The profits for a few people are not worth what it's doing to our water. CAFOs are bad for Wisconsin. We can't afford them for the long term. These farming operations produce too much waste in too little space, and it destroys our water. There is no way to build large enough storage facilities to contain the manure generated.

We must do more to protect water quality. I support the improvements to NR 243 and oppose any rollbacks.

Sincerely,
Rick Fahrenkrug
802 Grant Place
Neenah, WI 54956

Paul Berge, DVM
613 Park Avenue
Kiel, WI 53042

May 22, 2006

Administrator Ambs
Natural Resources Board
Madison, WI

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Board:

I am a retired dairy practitioner that has provided veterinary service to Manitowoc County dairy farmers for 36 years. I fully understand the needs of the dairy industry in Wisconsin. I also know that dairy farmers have traditionally been good stewards of the land and have been respected for it.

As farming practices change and dairy operations expand they put increased pressure on operators to be responsible neighbors. Any weakening of water standards will be detrimental to agriculture and how it is viewed in the community. As a small minority, it is imperative that farmers continue to be respectful of the environment.

NR 243 offers a chance to ensure water quality in our state if current standards are not only maintained but improved. We must eliminate the spreading of liquid manure on snow covered or frozen ground. This will entail requiring adequate storage capacity for this manure. Six months storage capacity seems logical. The spreading of liquid manure should be tightly regulated wherever surface water contamination may occur.

Please strengthen NR 243 to protect the water supply in our state. Help to keep agriculture a viable and respected industry in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Paul Berge, DVM

5/18/06

RE: NR 243

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

I write to you as a very concerned citizen of Wisconsin. Wisconsin has always been a leader on many environmental fronts. I believe that this Manure problem is another time when we must lead to protect our limited natural resource: water. Water is something that life cannot exist without. This is not something where we can take a wait-and-see approach; once damage is done, it will be a lot more expensive than some known steps that can be taken now to prevent damage from happening in the first place. When there are known facts of problems from Manure and steps to prevent them, we have the responsibility to act.

I believe NR243 must include 1) Requiring 6 months minimum storage capacity for liquid manure by 2008, and 2) Banning the surface application of liquid manure during February, March, or when the ground is frozen or snow covered by 2008.

Sincerely,

Dan Janssen
610 Windmill Dr
Kimberly WI 54136

5/19/06

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

Recently, we have seen far too many fish kills, beach closings, and well contaminations as a result of manure spills, fractured bedrock, and winter spreading.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

NR 243 must include:

- Requiring 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Judy L Johnston

1301 N Shawano Dr.

Marshfield, WI 54449

May 18, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

This past year Wisconsin has experienced a myriad of serious problems concerning beach closings, well-water contaminations, fish kills and threats to our general health as a result of manure spills.

As an outdoorsman who has raised a family here enjoying the opportunities afforded by previously cleaner air and water, I am deeply concerned by the deterioration of the quality of life.

I firmly support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills, their mixed- animal unit formulas, and the discharge permit application for 100-plus animal-unit farms, as well as the large-farm individual permit applications.

NR243 answers most of these concerns but must also include minimum 6 month storage for liquid manure by 2008 and banning of surface application of liquid manure during any time the ground is frozen or has snow cover.

I urgently request that you make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our environment and our families.

Sincerely,

Jacob D. Koivisto 1681 Langlade Ave. Green Bay, Wi. 54304

May 6, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambros & Members of Natural Resources Board,

I am alarmed to hear of the very many contaminated wells & beach closings happening in our state as a direct result of big corporate farms dumping the manure from their operations on frozen ground and from spills that seem to be a regular occurrence as well.

I cherish the time I & my family spend swimming & fishing in our lakes and so I urge you to support the passage of NR 243. Doing so ~~that~~ will ensure clean lakes & rivers for my great great grand children to swim & fish in too.

NR 243 needs to include -

- Requiring 6 months storage capacity for liquid manure by 2008.
- Banning the surface application of any manure during February & March by 2008
- Banning the surface application of liquid manure whenever the ground is frozen or snow covered
- Include additional groundwater protections for land spreading manure.

I urge you again to make NR 243 as strong as possible.
Sincerely, Tom Manthey 209 ELIZA, GB 54301

Administrator Ambs & Members of the
Natural Resources Board,

5.5

Recently, we have seen too many fish kills, beach closings & well contaminations as a result of manure spills, fractured bedrock & winter spreading.

As a citizen in this state, obviously, I am concerned about & affected by the dangers of poor water quality. I don't want to teach my future children to be afraid of our lakes, rivers, beaches, or the kitchen faucet.

NR243 is our chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills, and their use of mixed animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin farms.

I urge you to make NR243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families & our earth.

@Steffany Soletski

May 18, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

As a taxpayer and fisherman in our state the damaging effects of excessively and poorly placed manure has me very concerned. I have heard time and again the damages that have occurred because of ill equipped manure management regulations. Here in Brown County we have had 76 wells poisoned by excessive manure spreading. What will it take for the people in charge of protecting our state's water quality to take some action? Do we need people to become violently ill or die before we strengthen our regulations? As a state taxpayer I resent having to pay the bill to re-drill wells contaminated by manure in the Town of Morrison. Why is it my responsibility as a taxpayer to drill new wells because the agri-business industry refuses to control their waste bi-product? Where is my cut per hundred weight? This recent travesty is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. We have had major manure run-off problems into our state's waterways, causing extensive damage to aquatic eco-systems and degrading our state's waterways. Jersey Valley Lake and Sugar River come to mind. We have even had an extensive fish kill in the Branch River of Brown/Manitowoc County in Oct of 2000, with serious situations of manure run-off in the Branch since then. Where does it stop? The above ominous incidents are just some of the reasons why NR 243 must include:

- Requiring 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered

I also support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,
Paul Kruse
500 Saint Jude St.
Green Bay, WI. 54303
(920) 494-4220

MAY 15, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

Door County beach closings, well contaminations as a result of manure spills. these incidents cause great distress to me as I cherish the times when I am able to visit beautiful Door County. Runoff of crop nutrients and agricultural chemicals can impact the quality of streams, rivers, lakes and underground aquifers. These runoffs can adversely affect ponds, lakes, rivers and waterways and ultimately impact wells and drinking water supplies. I support all efforts that can be enacted to improve, preserve and protect our Wisconsin waters.

I am not a well owner, I reside in the city of Green Bay yet I have gone kayaking on the Ahnapee flowage / pond in Forestville in Door County. In the future I may acquire some rural property and depend on well water. I am concerned about the impact of agricultural runoffs and water quality of the Ahnapee watershed areas in Door and Kewaunee Counties...and water quality protection in our entire state . Poor water quality impacts all Wisconsin citizens. Canoeists and kayakers suffer from any form of pollution and they are especially adversely affected by microbial contaminants from agricultural or livestock operations. In terms of water clarity and odor I suspect that the surrounding agricultural farm yards and fields greatly impact the quality of the Ahnapee flowage and river in the Forestville area.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved. Please add me to the list of other concerned Wisconsin citizens that support the efforts of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters in endorsing the following provisions:

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

NR 243 must include:

- Requiring 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008**
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008**
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered**

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Litzsinger

1159 Gross Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304-2555

(920) 362-6525

May 19, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

I am writing to comment on NR 243. As a Regional Vice Chair for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, I am concerned that current Wisconsin law has not done an adequate job of protecting our coldwater resources from the impacts of improper manure handling.

As I'm sure you are aware, there has recently been a number of manure related fish kills. Some of those kills were in areas where considerable amounts of time and money had been spent to try to improve the resource. One manure incident can reverse major expenditures in time and money.

The well contamination that has recently been in the news is further evidence that manure in the state is not being handled effectively. The state is now in the position of needing to use scarce funding to assist citizens with their contaminated wells. With proper manure handling those expenditures should not be necessary in the future. It should be obvious that we cannot allow the manure producing businesses to continue having a negative impact on both ground and surface waters.

NR 243 is an opportunity to deal with the problems currently associated with poor manure management.

I would like to see NR 243 include:

- *a minimum of 6 months of storage capacity for liquid manure
- *a ban on the surface spreading of liquid manure during the months of February and March
- *a ban on surface spreading of liquid manure anytime the ground is frozen or snow covered.

Let's also be sure to maintain all current standards such as mandatory discharge permit applications for farms with more than 1000 animal units and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits to permit public scrutiny.

NR 243 needs to be strong enough to deal with the very serious situations we are seeing with both surface and groundwater supplies. Please resist attempts to weaken NR 243. This is an opportunity to protect both health and recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,
Kim McCarthy
Northeast Regional Vice Chair
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

736 Meadowbrook Ct.
Green Bay, WI 54313

5/5/06

Dear Administrator and members of Natural Resources Board.

Its pretty sad to see in our beautiful State of Wisconsin all of the recently and far too often fish kills, beaches closing and well contaminations as a result of manure spills from mega factory farms.

Our water way and drinking water should never be put in this type of jeopardy.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality state wide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible

Sincerely

Sandra J Rogers

1370 HARVEY ST #

G. B. WIS. 54302

5/5/06

Dear Administrator Ambbs and Member
of the Natural Resource Board.

Water is the most important natural
Resource that our world has. It makes
up 75% of OUR BODIES. We cannot
live without clean water. Manure spills,
fractured bedrock and winter spreading
is destroying our clean water.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium
water quality statewide, but the
current standards need to be maintained
and IMPROVED!

I support the DNR's ability to act on
manure spills and their use of the mixed-
animal unit calculation which accounts
for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's
farms.

MAKE NR 243 as strong as possible
to protect the health of YOUR/OUR
Families

Sincerely,

Jill Berger
Jill Berger

1404 Arden Lane
Manitowoc, WI, 54220

4/25/2006

...I own some land with a small creek flowing through it...it was full of trout and suckers...now every fall the idiot farmer upstream from me puts heifers in the field and they deposit their waste in the stream....everything dies every fall.

M. Musial

309 Beaupre St, Green Bay, WI 54301

May 17, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board:

Recently, we have seen far too many fish kills, beach closings, and well contaminations as a result of manure spills and winter spreading. I live on the north shore of Lake Winnebago and have witnessed the algae blooms that result from manure and sewage contamination. We need enforceable regulations to significantly reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our surface waters from these sources. NR 243 is a proper step to ensure premium water quality statewide.

The DNR must have the ability to act on manure spills. Further, farms with more than 1000 animal units must be required to apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input. To be effective NR 243 must, by 2008, require such farms to provide adequate winter storage of liquid manure and ban the surface application of liquid manure while the ground is frozen and during the spring runoff period.

Please make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families, our lakes and rivers, and the recreational opportunities for our citizens and visitors.

Sincerely,

Charles Paine
N8172 Firelane 13
Menasha, WI 54952-9650

Ms. Taku Ronsman
1688 Beaver Dam Drive
Green Bay WI 54304
Ph: 920-499-9663
Email: tronsman@earthlink.net

May 22, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambbs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

I am very upset about the numerous kills, beach closings and well contaminations that have occurred over the past few years due to manure spills and winter manure spreading. It's time to clean up our waters and restore them to the level they were at when it was safe to swim and fish in them.

I used to be proud to live in WI because there were so many fresh water swimming and fishing spots. But now I feel ashamed of how contaminated and unfit for recreation our waters have become in good part due to unsustainable business practices.

We need policies that establish sustainable business (and tourist) practices so our waters will recover and we can all be proud to live in WI.

Please make NR243 as strong as possible to assure our waters are not polluted by manure. Make sure NR243 includes the following requirements:

- ◆ A 6-months minimum storage capacity for liquid manure by September of 2007.
- ◆ Ban surface applications of liquid manure during January, February and March by December of 2006.
- ◆ Ban the surface applications of liquid manure when the ground is frozen/snow covered.

Thank you for your role in protecting our environment.

Sincerely,

Taku C Ronsman

Taku C. Ronsman

May 18, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

Recently, in Wisconsin there have been far too many fish kills, beach closings, and well contaminations as a result of manure spills, fracture bedrock, and winter spreading.

I'm upset to learn that some Wisconsin citizens have lost access to clean water for daily living needs when a farmer spreads manure over frozen ground or a manure spill results in a contaminated well. These events can be prevented from happening.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

NR 243 must include:

- Requiring 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Dale Schaber
815 East Washington Street
Appleton, WI 54911-5660

May 4, 2006

Sirs-

We have owned a summer cottage on Lake Michigan for almost 17 years. The natural beauty in the Hika Bay area is amazing, however over the last several years we find our beaches to be almost unusable some days. The beaches for days at a time can be coated in thick slime and at night sometimes the stench from Maple Leaf can cause us to take refuge inside and close up all the windows. Farming and family life have coexisted for a very long time and will continue to coexist if proper protections are in place to monitor factory farms. Water quality is possibly the most basic right an individual has, please do whatever is necessary to protect our waters, and do it before there is an enormous mess to clean up!

Thanks-Jim Sheehan 12507 Lake Shore Rd. Cleveland, WI (cell 630/730-7723)

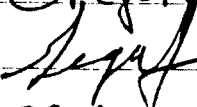
05-05-06

Dear Administrator Ambrose and Members of the Natural Resources Board,
Recently, we have seen far too many fish kills, beach closings, and well contamination (Morrison) as a result of manure spills, fractured bedrock, and winter spreading.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills, and their use of the mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin farms.

You must take vital steps to protect our Earth's most valuable resource **WATER!!!** Without clean drinking water we cannot live.

Please Respond,
Gregory J Szatoru

2529 Talluride Trl Unit G
GB, WI 54313

Date May 17, 2006

Dear Administrator Ambs and Members of the Natural Resources Board,

Recently, I have seen far too many fish kills, beach closings, and well contaminations as a result of manure spills, fractured bedrock, and winter spreading.

As a **private well-owner**, I am directly affected by threatened water quality. The farmer next to me spreads his manure all winter. Although nothing has happened so far I surely do not want to wait until something does to take action. It is the future of myself and my children I worry about.

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water quality statewide, but the current standards need to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure spills; their mixed-animal unit calculation which accounts for the diversity of animals on Wisconsin's farms; the mandatory discharge permit application for farms with more than 1000 animal units; and the requirement that large farms apply for individual permits in order to ensure proper environmental review and public input.

NR 243 must include:

- Requiring 6-months Minimum Storage Capacity for Liquid Manure by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March by 2008
- Banning the Surface Application of Liquid Manure when the Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered

I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,
Jan Wilkey
2943 Popplewood Court
Suamico, WI 54173

5-5-06

Dear Administrator Amba and Members
of the Natural Resources Board,

Can you imagine your child
drinking contaminated water. Of
course not so how can you
not do everything possible to
keep water as pure as possible.

Water affects almost everything
around us (trees - humans - energy etc);
So in order for our children to grow
up in a safe and healthy environment
Our water must be protected and
kept clean.

Angie Lloyd

Dear Administrator Ambbs & Members of the Natural Resources Board

A clean Wisconsin is very important to me and I hope it is to you too. So I urge you to make NR 243 as strong as possible to protect the health of our families and the recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Tony Fasanello

1533 Leo St. #5

Green Bay, WI 54303

5-5-06

Dear Administrator AMBs and Members of the
Natural Resources Board,

NR 243 is a chance to ensure premium water
quality statewide, but the current standards ~~are~~ need
to be maintained and even improved.

I support the DNR's ability to act on manure
spills, and their use of the mixed-animal unit
calculation which accounts for the diversity of
animals on Wisconsin's FARMS

Please Respond

Timothy Plude

Timothy PLude

1687 Decker Ave Apt 0

Green Bay WI. 54302